

Application No: 10/669,751
Attorney Docket: 1-23415

such issues were resolved to the satisfaction of the Examiner, the clarifying amendments proposed in the Amendment After Final filed on September 29, 2006 would be made by Examiner's Amendment.

The actuator in the Yamada et al. reference is totally incapable of causing an assist element to store energy when an actuator member is moved in the extended direction and release the energy when the actuator member is moved in the retracted direction opposite to the extended direction, as recited in Claim 1.

Yamada et al. disclose an actuator member 4 and an assist element 11 that stores energy when the actuator member is moved in the retracted direction and releases the energy when the actuator member is moved in the extended direction. Yamada et al. fail to disclose an assist element that stores energy when an actuator member is moved in an extended direction and releases the energy when the actuator member is moved in a retracted direction opposite to the extended direction. Therefore, the actuator 4 disclosed in the Yamada et al. reference is incapable of performing the function of the assist element recited in Claim 1.

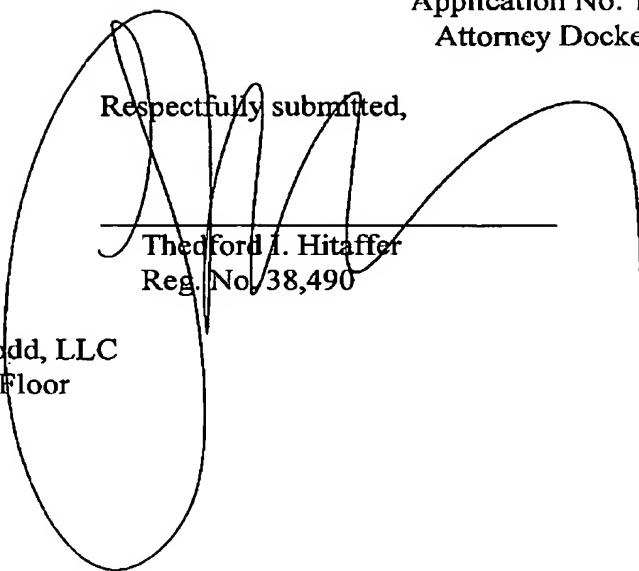
In the personal interview, the Examiner briefly discussed an alternative interpretation of the Yamada et al. reference, wherein the pressurized cylinder 6 could be interpreted to be a motor and the plunger 12 could be interpreted to be an actuator member, as recited in claim 1. However, in addition to it being unreasonable to interpret the pressurized cylinder 6 in the Yamada et al. reference as a motor, the pressurized cylinder 6 is totally incapable of moving the plunger 12 in an extended direction and a retracted direction, like the motor recited in claim 1. Instead, the pressurized cylinder 6 is only capable of moving the plunger 12 in an extended direction. It is not capable of moving the plunger 12 in a retracted direction.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejection of the claims in view Yamada et al.

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